

London **Archaeologist**

Spring 2006
Volume 11 No 4

£4.00



Excavation in Bermondsey

Waste disposal in Southwark

Prehistoric Redbridge

Medieval Gallery at Museum of London

Furthermore, with the site showing continued occupation throughout the Late Bronze Age and the assemblage reflecting the broad trends and changes elsewhere in the region at this time, the site is thought to have been fully integrated into contemporary society.

The pottery (Fig. 3)

Mike Seager Thomas

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Newbury Park comprises 224 sherds weighing approximately 2.5 kg. The vast majority of sherds belong to an early phase of the post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age. Stratigraphically, and in terms of the fabrics comprising them, they divide into two chronologically sequential sub-groups, Late Bronze Age (I) and Late Bronze Age (II). The remaining sherds – three only – are of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date. Late Bronze Age dated features focus on Area 1. They include Ditch 1 which yielded a Late Bronze Age (I) assemblage, Ditches 3 and 4 which yielded Late Bronze Age (II) assemblages, and posthole of Fence 2 which yielded a Late Bronze Age assemblage. Posthole 168 has a Late Bronze Age *terminus post quem*. In Area 2 Ditches 5 and 6 along with 206 and the recut of Ditch 6 all have Late Bronze Age *termini post quem*. The identification of two chronologically sequential sub-groups within the post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblage indicates settled occupation of the area through the Late Bronze Age. It also provides a local date for a broadening of site resource strategies paralleled on Late Bronze Age sites outside the region.

The Late Bronze Age assemblage

Previous work in the region has yielded numerous assemblages of Late Bronze Age pottery. These comprise pottery belonging to the post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition. For the Thames Valley this has been discussed in detail by Barrett (1980). The present report compliments this work by considering the relationship of the Newbury Park assemblage, which comes from an area largely devoid of contemporary settlement, to broadly coeval assemblages from a number of regionally proximate sites, and by placing it in the context of Late Bronze Age pottery traditions of

southeast England as a whole. The site assemblage to which the present assemblage is most closely related is from Runnymede Bridge on the Surrey/Berkshire border.⁵

Late Bronze Age fabrics

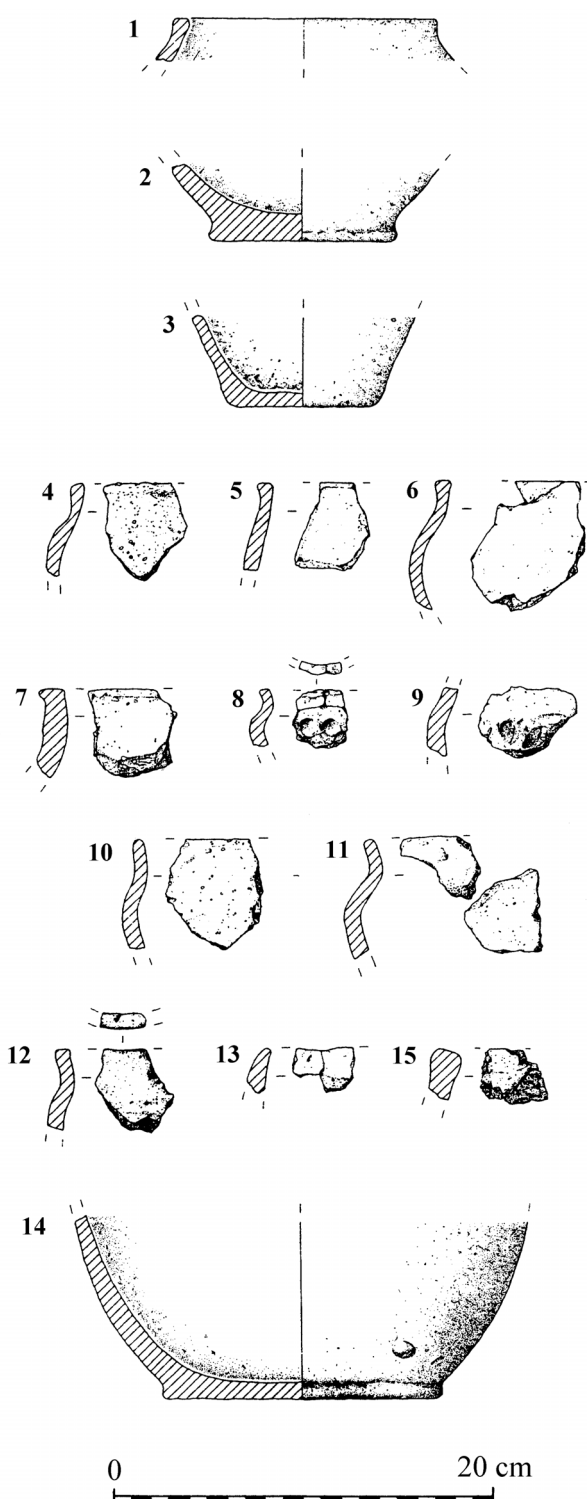
The Late Bronze Age assemblage comprises twelve distinguishable fabric types. All of these occurred in chronologically diagnostic forms on site or were consistently associated with dated material. Amongst them are both fine and intermediate wares but the assemblage as a whole is dominated by intermediate wares. It is divisible into two sub-groups, which, in the stratigraphic relationship of Ditch 1 to Ditch 3 and Ditches 3 and 4, are shown to be chronologically sequential. These are Late Bronze Age (I) and Late Bronze Age (II). Feature assemblages belonging to Late Bronze Age (II) incorporate fabric types *additional* to those present in feature assemblages belonging to Late Bronze Age (I). As a group these 12 fabrics are unparalleled locally but individually all have parallels in assemblages from Late Bronze Age sites elsewhere in the region.

Typology

The assemblage includes sherds from two post-Deverel-Rimbury types, the convex-sided jar and the shouldered jar, as well as sherds displaying traits of manufacture such as thin bodies and finger-pinching, which, though not attributable to a particular vessel type are characteristic of the tradition.⁶ One convex jar and five shouldered jar variants are distinguishable. This comprises a small selection only of the post-Deverel-Rimbury repertoire. Notable absentees include both the cup and bowl, which, along with the convex and the shoulder jar, characterize post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblages elsewhere.⁷

The date of the assemblage

The post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition is divisible into three chronologically sequential phases represented by plainware assemblages, 'developed' plainware assemblages, and decorated assemblages. Individual Newbury Park vessels can be paralleled in assemblages belonging to all three of these phases, but, collectively, the types associated with the Late



Bronze Age (I) ditch are best paralleled in plainware assemblages and the types associated with the Late Bronze Age (II) ditches in 'developed' plainware assemblages. At Newbury

Fig. 3: prehistoric pottery illustrations

Late Bronze Age (I)

Ditch 1

1. Concave/upright neck of shouldered jar with flat, squared rim. Cut 29/fill 26.
2. Flat, pinched base. Cut 108/fill 106.
3. Flat base. Cut 108/fill 106.
4. Slack, angular to rounded shoulder and upright, finger-squeezed neck of shouldered jar with flat, squared rim. Cut 108/fill 107.
5. Slightly convex upper shoulder of ?shouldered jar with flat, slightly out-turned/externally expanded rim. Cut 116/fill 115.

Undifferentiated Late Bronze Age

Recut Ditch 6

6. Rounded shoulder, concave/upright neck of shouldered jar with flat, slightly externally expanded rim. Cut 183/fill 182.

Late Bronze Age (II)

Ditch 4

7. Concave/upright neck of shouldered jar with flat, externally and internally expanded (hammerhead) rim. Cut 32/fill 31.

Ditch 3

8. Rounded, finger-tip impressed shoulder, concave/upright neck of small shouldered jar with cabled or finger-tip impressed rim. Cut 141/fill 140.
9. Finger-tip impressed shoulder of shouldered jar. Cut 141/fill 140.
10. Slack, rounded shoulder and concave/upright neck of shouldered jar with rounded to flat, squared rim. Cut 141/fill 140.
11. Rounded shoulder and slightly flared neck of shouldered jar with rounded rim. Cut 141/fill 140.
12. Upper shoulder and slightly flared neck of shouldered jar with finger-tip impressed, squared rim. Cut 141/fill 140.

Ditch 6

13. Rounded rim of closed mouthed convex jar. Cut 189/fill 185.
14. Pinched base. Cut 189/fill 186.

Intrusive Late Iron Age or later

Ditch 6

15. Beaded rim of closed mouthed jar. Cut 189/fill 186.

Park 'development' appears to have been accompanied by the adoption of a range of new fabrics. Radiocarbon dates associated with post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery from elsewhere place plainwares between c. 1150 and 950 cal BC and 'developed' plainwares between c. 950 and 750 cal BC.⁸ The same chronology is recommended for Newbury Park. Close regional parallels for the Newbury Park post-Deverel-Rimbury plainware

assemblage come from Weston Wood, Albury (Area 2)⁹ and the lowermost deposits at Runnymede Bridge (Units G to I).¹⁰ Close regional parallels for the Newbury Park post-Deverel-Rimbury 'developed' plainwares come from Cliffe, in Kent,¹¹ Kensington,¹² and the uppermost deposits at Runnymede Bridge (Units J to L).¹³

Evidence for craft specialization

Further up the Thames Valley the proportion of sandy fabrics in early first millennium BC pottery has been shown to increase over time.¹⁴ Much the same occurred at Newbury Park although here the new sandy fabrics were accompanied by a previously unseen flint tempered fabric (F1) and a shelly fabric (SQ). The bulk of these early first millennium BC Thames Valley fabrics are assumed to be local. Similar introductions elsewhere in southeast England, however, incorporate non-local material and are taken as an indicator of craft specialization.¹⁵ It is possible that the changes evident at Newbury Park are of a similar nature. Certainly the bias in the assemblage towards jar forms and intermediate fabrics suggests some sort of specialization. If these new fabrics do indeed reflect craft specialization, the stratigraphic division between Newbury Park's Late Bronze Age (I) and Late Bronze Age (II) assemblages dates it for the London area. The advent of craft specialization, together with the development of hill-forts and other changes in settlement patterning, marks a major turning point in early first millennium BC society.

The Iron Age assemblage

Relevant Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British traditions have been discussed by Cunliffe¹⁶ and Thompson.¹⁷ The present report is informed by but, owing to the small size of the assemblage, adds nothing to this work. It is important only in so far as it contributes a dot to our distribution maps of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British London.

Late Iron Age fabrics

Only one fabric (S) occurred in a Late Iron Age form but it is likely that some of those with which it was associated, and which are here dated to the

Late Bronze Age, re-occurred on site during the Late Iron Age. This applies particularly to Fabric GS, which, although present in a Late Bronze Age (I) context, has close parallels in both Kent and Sussex Late Iron Age assemblages (identical fabrics have been noted by the author in unpublished Late Iron Age assemblages from Norton in Sussex and Hawkinge in Kent).

The date of the assemblage

The assemblage includes a very small rim sherd in Fabric S which belongs to a closed-mouthed storage jar (Fig. 3:15). Owing to its size it is difficult to reconstruct, but probable parallels occur in Late Iron Age assemblages, in which form and fabric alike are associated with 'Belgic' sand and grog tempered vessels, and Early Romano-British assemblages, in which they are associated with fully Romanised pottery. No unequivocally Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British pottery was identified in the Newbury Park assemblage. A pre-conquest date is favoured for the present vessel, however, because of the absence of Romano-British associations and because of the presence of fabrics like GS which *could* be Iron Age. Pre-conquest parallels occur in assemblages from Great Dumnow in Essex,¹⁸ Ewell in Surrey¹⁹ and Cliffe in Kent.²⁰

Acknowledgements

Pre Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs for commissioning the work and his clients, Bellway Homes for funding the project. The author would like to thank Gary Brown, the project manager and David Divers and Lorraine Darton, the post-excavation managers, for all their advice and assistance. Very special thanks are also due to Fiona Keith-Lucas for her work during the assessment stage of the project and to all the excavation and technical support staff who persevered despite the weather. Thanks to all the finds specialists for their individual contributions to the project; Mike Seager Thomas, Nick Branch, Barry J. Bishop, Lisa Yeomans and John Brown. Finally thanks to Cate Davies and the drawing office for the illustrations.

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